

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, AUG. 22, 1862.

Upwards of one hundred released Federal prisoners from Richmond, are now at Willards Hotel, in Washington. The *Intelligencer* says:—"Quite an interesting scene occurred at the War Department yesterday morning, at about 11 o'clock. In the lower hall were upwards of one hundred of the returned prisoners. All were desirous of getting some respite that they might visit their families for a few days, and the dejected countenances of a number of the brave fellows, as they emerged from the office, told too plainly that they had, instead of a leave of absence for a week or two, positive orders to join their regiment at the earliest practicable moment. Those who were fortunate enough to obtain the desired leave were such as had sustained wounds, were still suffering from their effects, or sickness contracted while in Dixie.

The U. S. steamer *Massachusetts*, arrived at New York, yesterday, reports:—"On the night of the 19th, about 9 o'clock, when passing Cape Henry, saw a large sidewheeled steamer ashore, supposed to be the *Arago*. Was hailed and asked for assistance; lowered a boat to communicate, but she got off and stood up the Chesapeake Bay."

Douglas E. Jerrold, son of the celebrated English author and wit, enlisted as a private in Captain Hawkins' Company, Col. Porter's Regiment, of New York, on the 8th of August.

The negroes of Salem, Massachusetts, are to hold a meeting to take into consideration the subject of the President's address concerning emigration to Central America.

From a statement published in the *New York Journal of Commerce*, it appears that there were built in the U. S., during the year 1861, 110 ships, 38 brigs, 360 schooners, 371 sloops and smaller craft, and 264 steamers, of a total tonnage of 319,539.

A despatch received in Washington yesterday states that 7,000 troops were at Port Deposit, waiting transportation to that city.

General Burnside says he never saw a grander sight than was presented by the late Army of the Potomac while marching over the pontoon bridge across the Chickahominy.

Major Folsom, a Paymaster of Burnside's corps, was arrested in Washington, on Monday for withholding Government coin when required to deposit it at the Treasury. He was confined in the Old Capitol prison, but is now released on parole to settle his accounts.

Geo. R. Putnam, one of the proprietors of Union Hall, Saratoga, died on Tuesday evening, aged 34 years and 8 months.

Among the return Federal prisoners is Sir Percy Wyndham, of the First N. J. Cavalry, the English nobleman.

The plumbers in the navy-yard at Washington, have formed themselves into a relief association for the benefit of the families of soldiers who enlist from the District, and have agreed to set apart so much of their pay each month for that purpose. They have also appointed a committee to carry out their object.

The demand for coal burning locomotives is greater at present than for many years past.

The steamer *Arabia*, with \$18,400 in specie, and 31 passengers for Liverpool, sailed from Boston on Wednesday.

Battle of Cedar Mountain.

The correspondent of the *Boston Traveller*, at Culpeper Court House, Virginia, gives particulars of the battle of Cedar Mountain, some of which are new and interesting, and correct erroneous impressions of that sanguinary contest.

It was known last week that General Jackson was advancing westward. General Pope's army consists of three corps, viz: Banks', McDowell's, and Sigel's (late Fremont's.) General Sigel was then at Sperryville, General Banks six miles northeast, and General McDowell somewhere near Warrenton. General Banks was sent forward to Cedar Creek, seven miles north of this place. Whether General McDowell moved immediately I do not know. Gen. Sigel followed General Banks soon—I believe the next day.

On Friday last General Banks was ordered to Culpeper. He has two divisions. General Crawford's Brigade, of General Williams' Division, had, for perhaps a fortnight, been near Culpeper, and on Saturday morning was near Cedar Mountain, (called Slaughter's by the citizens,) when he was threatened by one of General Jackson's three corps—the others rapidly coming up. General Gordon's Brigade was put in rapid motion to support General Crawford, and General Auger's whole division was sent to the vicinity.

To talk of the Rebels "begging permission" to bury their dead is sheer nonsense. They occupied the ground for thirty-six hours prior to a truce. We did not go near until Monday morning, when a party went, independent of any knowledge of truce. Your correspondent was the first in the revisit of the field where our right was so roughly handled, to look for wounded; later, a truce was agreed upon; we should have gone Sunday night, but General Sigel, then in command there, stopped us at the picket line, on account of the risk. At 5 A. M., Monday, no Rebel dead were visible in that part of the ground, not even in their own position.

Nor is it true that the rebels retreated on account of the battle. In that battle we were defeated—so far as this, that they drove us from our position and occupied it; and we did not attempt to retake it. But we fell back only to our next position, half a mile, and the enemy did not attempt to take it. That our forces were too much exhausted to renew the fight is equal nonsense, for only Gen. Banks was engaged, while other corps, or part of them, were lying within sound of our musketry. Jackson retreated on Monday, but clearly not from the simple results of the action on Saturday.

Possibly as Gen. McDowell and Gen. Sigel had come up, and held a very strong position, he felt himself unable to cope with General Pope's whole army, having hoped, it may be, to cut up one or two of the separate corps before a junction. Or, possibly, movements near Fredericksburg—which, from tidings here to-day, seems very probable. At any rate, he has retired across the Rapidan; how much further we do not know.

Why one corps alone was placed against Gen. Jackson's whole force remains a mystery, as troops in plenty were near. Had a sufficient force been sent to our right to prevent the flanking, it would seem that the result would have been different.

It is understood that at least in corps of Gen. McClellan's army will remain at Fortress Monroe, and that Suffolk will be immediately re-enforced. It is said, also, that Fortress Monroe be one of the points for concentrating and disciplining the reserves raised under the last call of the President of the United States.

The "exempts" in Albany, N. Y., have begun the organization of a regiment to be composed entirely of men over forty-five years of age.

Change of Base.

The *New York Express* of yesterday afternoon says:—"The enemy have changed their base, as well as the Union Army of McClellan, and they have been doing it most rapidly, while laughing at the Union forces for moving from superior numbers and wasting disease on the Peninsula. Both armies are now in healthier positions, though further from Richmond than a month since. Where we are to look for McClellan's army next is a speculation but of course, the enemy is doing, and will do all in his power, to prevent a junction of the Union troops. General Halleck no doubt understands this, and keeps a watch on the enemy's movements, whose eager eyes on Washington are well known, and, no doubt, provided for. All we have to say to the Administration, and to the people, is,—do not underrate your enemy. If you do not drive the rebels from Virginia, they will drive you from Washington. Gen. Jackson's army is known to be in strong force, with heavy reinforcements from Richmond. Ewell and Magruder may be with him, in spite of all the stories uttered as a blind about Gen. M. being sent South.—The great body of the rebel army recently in Richmond are probably not far behind.

Official Despatch from Gen. Jackson.

RICHMOND, Aug. 12.—The following official despatch was received at headquarters here to-day.

VALLEY DISTRICT, AUGUST 14—6½ A. M. COLONEL: On the evening of the 9th inst., God blessed our arms with another victory.—The battle was near Cedar Run, about six miles from Culpeper Court-house. The enemy's force, according to the statements of prisoners, consisted of Gen. Bank's, McDowell's, and Sigel's commands. We have over four hundred prisoners, including Brigadier General Prince. Whilst our list of killed is less than that of the enemy, yet we have to mourn the loss of some of our best officers and men. Brigadier General Charles Winder was mortally wounded whilst ably discharging his duty at the head of his command, which was the advance of the of the left wing of the army. We have collected about fifteen hundred small arms and other ordnance stores.

I am, Colonel, your obedient servant,
T. J. JACKSON,

Col. R. H. CHILTON, A. A. G.

A NEW ENEMY.—Some of the Union men have stirred up a new enemy near Dixie, in the region of Culpeper. A letter from there says:

"Our own individual base is within the limits of a fifty acre field, and we amuse ourselves witnessing the combats between the troops and several nests of bees, which the men have accidentally stirred up. From present appearances it is very probable that the bees will hold the field."

The *Wheeling Press* says:—"The Provost Marshal desires it to be understood that citizens of the city and county who may desire to leave the State for a few days, and who are unknown to him, must bring good vouchers for their indentivity. Those who expect to be absent for some time, must give bonds with security of \$1,000 each.

A Nashville paper says that a sister of mercy in that city, states the curious fact, that the last words of a great number of soldiers dying under her observation were of their mothers, though many of them must have left a wife and children.

The draft it is said will certainly commence on Monday the 1st of September.

Large numbers of troops continue to arrive in Washington and are forwarded into Virginia.